

Students Transitioning Off Campus: The Student Life Journey

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UMASS
AMHERST



NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE
FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

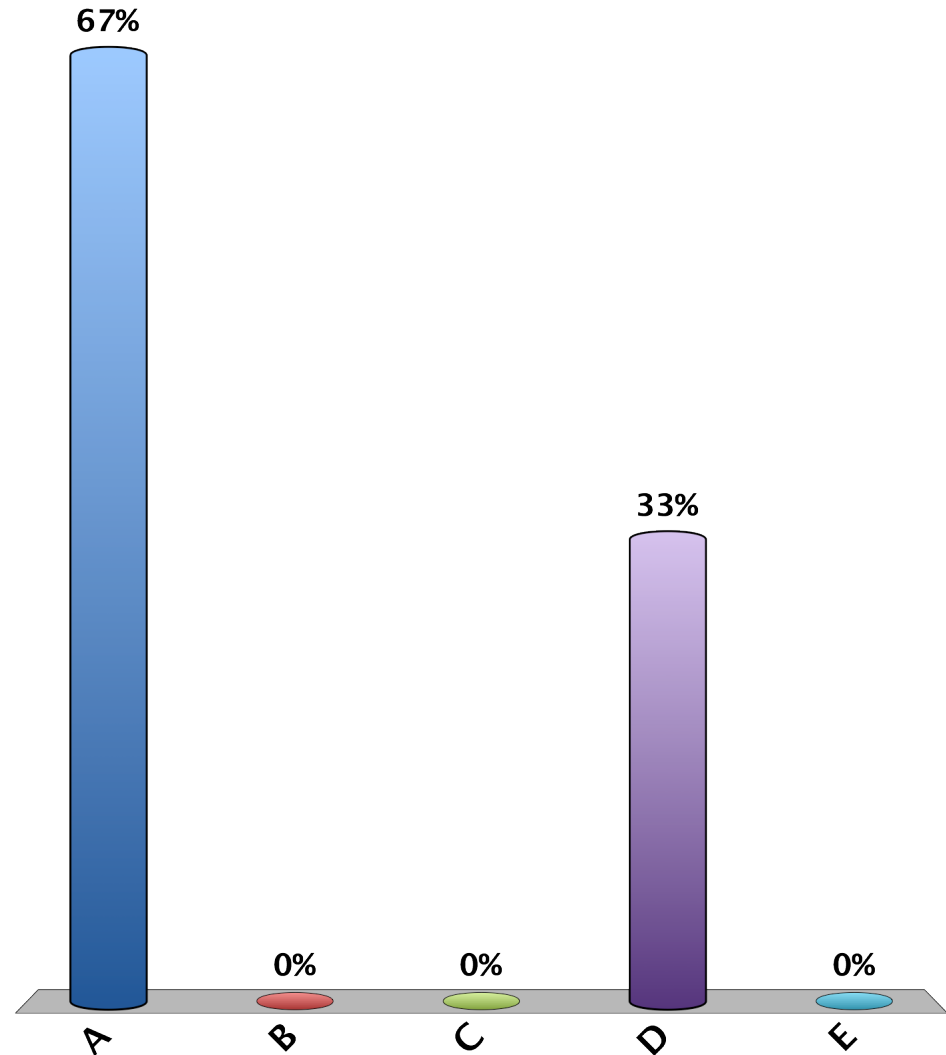
A background image showing three young women sitting at small, round, black metal outdoor tables. They are in front of a red brick building. One woman is wearing sunglasses and looking at a book. Another is talking on a phone. A third is looking towards the camera. There are laptops and drinks on the tables. A sign with the Google logo and the word 'GALLERY' is visible on the brick wall.

Session Outcomes

- Discuss the developmental outcomes of students transitioning from to non-University affiliated, off-campus housing.
- Learn about the Student Life Journey and the *Off Campus Student Development Outcomes*
- Discover how college and university staff can support students living off campus with targeted programming and support that addresses developmental outcomes.

What Brings you to this session?

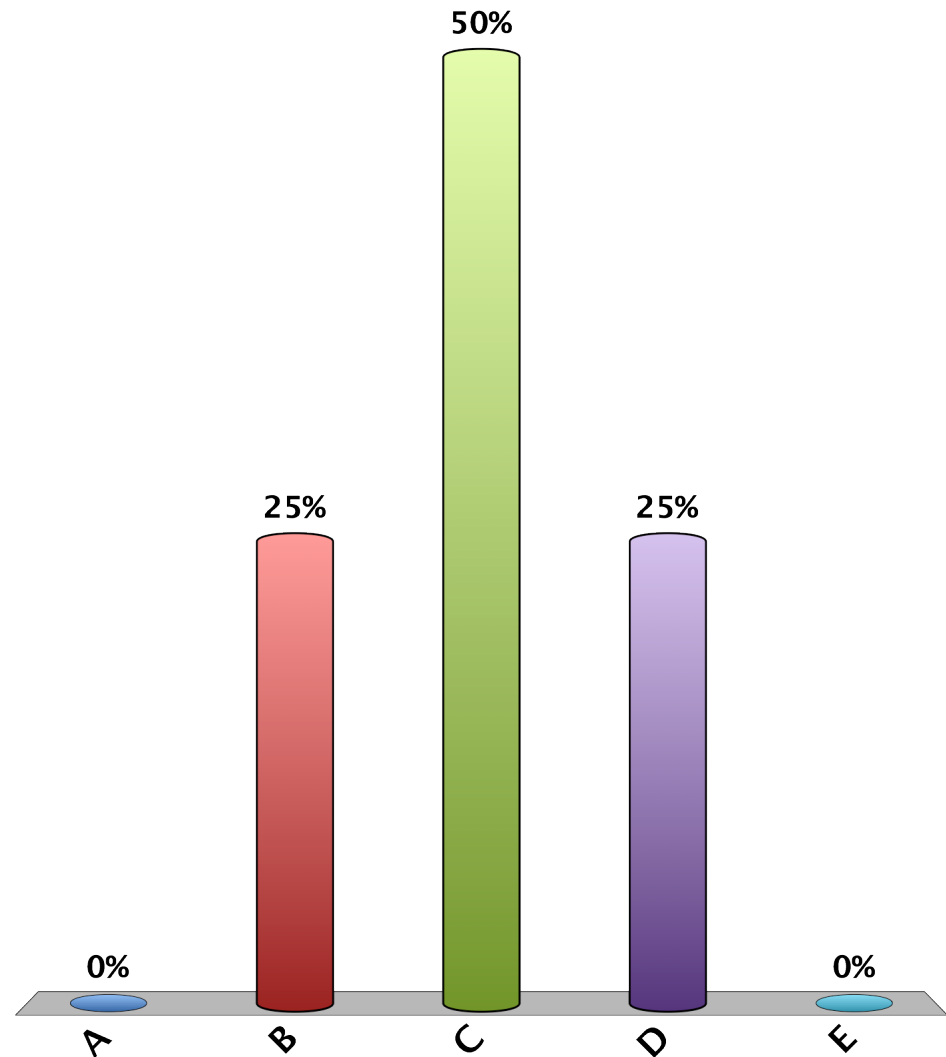
- A. You work with off campus students
- B. You do not work directly with off campus students but want to learn more
- C. You are here purely for the complementary water
- D. You're worried about town/gown relations
- E. Wrong session but you grew to like us!



How would you grade your institution's success in supporting off campus students?

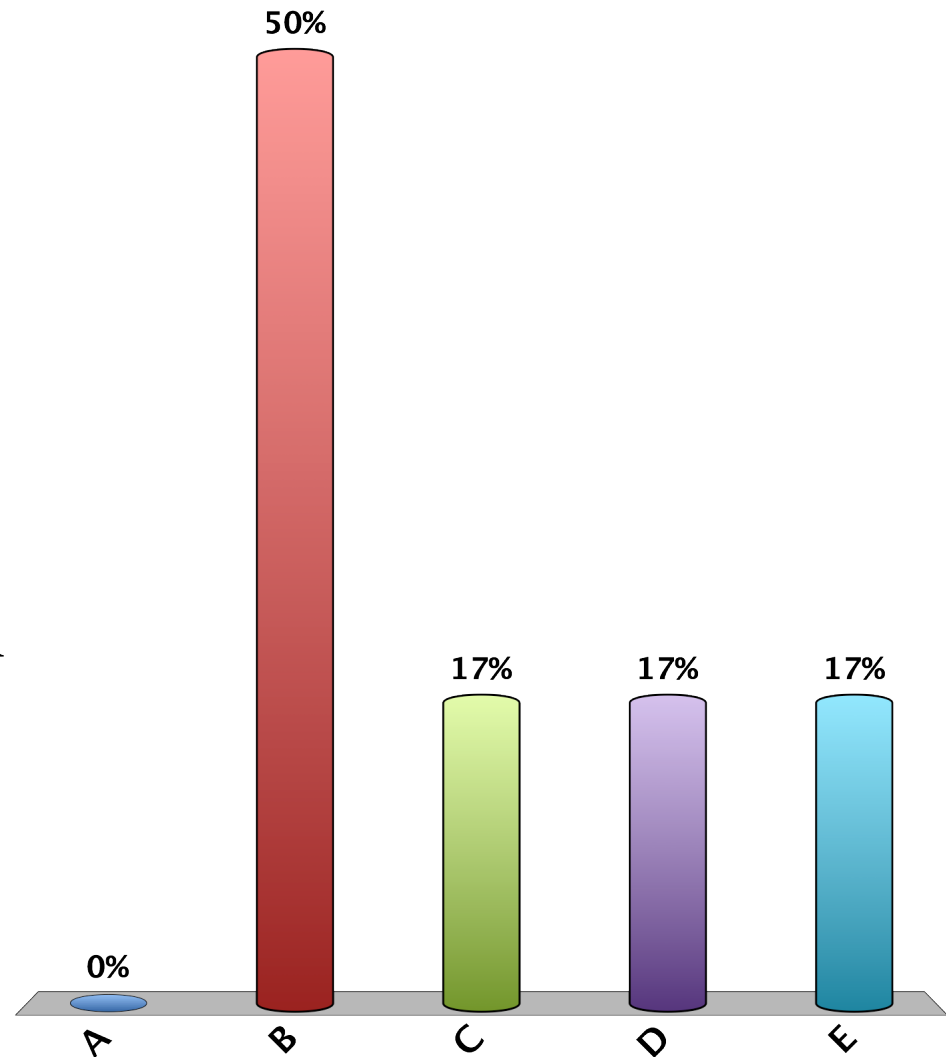
- A. We're great!
- B. Looking good, could be better
- C. Damn, we need help!
- D. What's an off campus student?
- E. What? I'm still too nervous to leave even though I'm in the wrong session

Note: UMass attendees must select option "A"



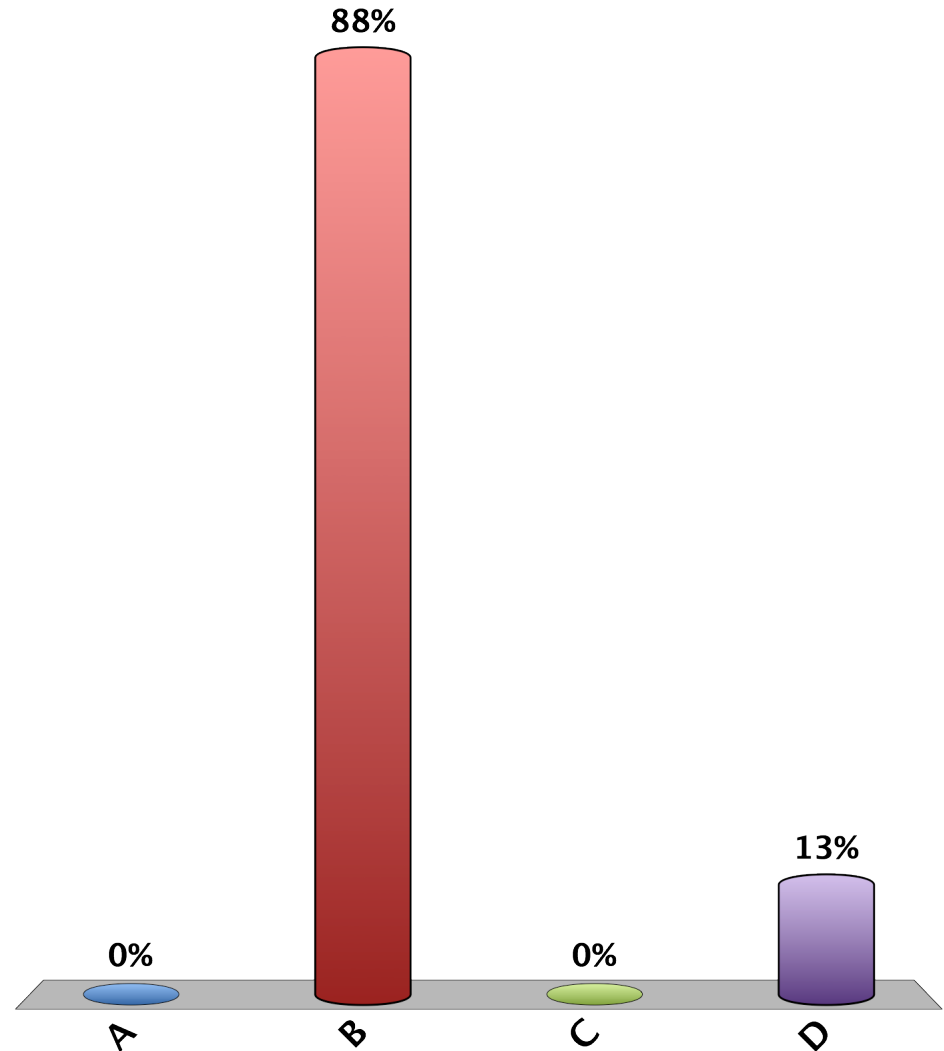
What do you think students think of first when moving off campus from a residence hall?

- A. How do I rent an apartment?
- B. Who should my roommates be?
- C. What will it cost?
- D. Should I go with red or blue Solo cups?
- E. All of the above



What is the biggest issue for students moving off campus?

- A. I don't get along with my roommates
- B. What are these bill things?
- C. I only know how to cook from the box
- D. How do I get to campus?





The Developmental Needs of Off Campus Students

What is Student Development Theory?

“The way that a student grows, progresses, or increases his or her developmental capabilities as a result of enrollment in an institution of higher education.”

(Evans et al., 2010)



Off Campus Journey: Sanford's Challenge and Support (1966)

Proposed three developmental conditions: readiness, challenge, and support.

Typical challenges experienced by Off Campus Students include:

- Learning How to Select a Living Space; searching, leases, inspection
- Negotiating Housemate, Neighbor, and Community relationships and expectations
- Acquiring knowledge to self care: cooking, cleaning, emergency preparations, budgeting

Development occurs when challenges (optimal dissonance) are balanced by supports.




Off Campus Journey: Chickering's Seven Vectors

Chickering proposed seven vectors of development that contribute to the formation of identity. He believed that “theory can give us the lenses to see ... developmental ... changes and help move development forward.

1. **Developing Competence** Three-tined pitchfork: tines = intellectual competence, physical and manual skills, interpersonal competence, handle = “sense of competence”
2. **Managing Emotions** Ability to recognize, accept, express, and control emotions
3. **Moving Through Autonomy Toward Interdependence** Increased emotional independence, recognition of interconnectedness with others

Chickering Continued...

- 
4. **Developing Mature Interpersonal Relationships** development of intercultural / interpersonal tolerance, appreciation of differences capacity for healthy, lasting relationships
 5. **Establishing Identity: CENTRAL TO ALL OTHER VECTORS** includes comfort with appearance, gender, sexual orientation, heritage, self-concept, abilities and roles, constructive feedback, and increase in personal stability
 6. **Developing Purpose** clear vocational goals, meaningful commitments to activities, interests, and other people intentionally making and sticking to decisions, even in the face of opposition
 7. **Developing Integrity** *humanizing values* – interests of others balanced with own interests *personalizing values* – values are affirmed, others' beliefs acknowledged and respected *developing congruence* – values and actions become congruent, self-interest balanced by sense of social responsibility

A student with a backpack is walking away from the camera on a sidewalk. In the background, there is a brick building and a sign that says "P" and "P+" with a plus sign. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Off Campus Student Journey: Developmental Outcomes

- Stage I: Planning & Getting Ready to Move
- Stage II: Moving In and Getting Settled into Off Campus Life
- Stage III: Living the Off Campus Life
- Stage IV: Concluding your Student Career and Leaving



Navigating Off Campus Living at UMass Amherst



- Off Campus Student Services launched in 2011
- Off Campus Student Center established in the Student Union
- Off Campus Student Life Coordinator Program began in Fall 2012



Navigating Off Campus: Town/ Gown Goodwill

Positive Community Outreach Practices

- *Off Campus Student Move-In*
- *Ride Around / Roving Staff*
- *Community Meetings on Student Behavior*
- *Proactive Communications to Students with Conduct*
- *Dean Chats*
- *Positive Presence Program/Off Campus Staff*

Navigating Off Campus: Downloadable Resources

Download These Resources

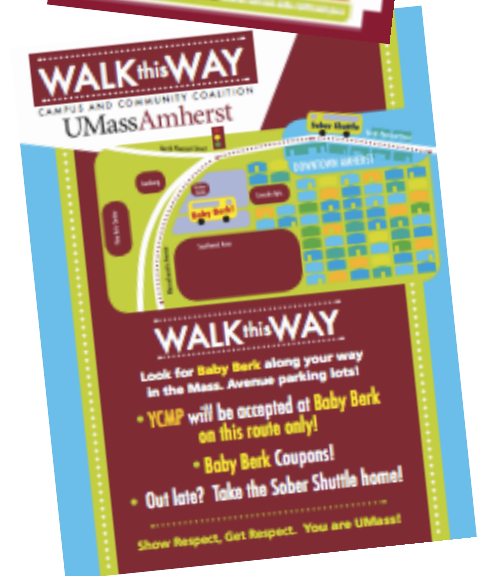
- Cooking and Shopping 101
- Educating Residential Students Poster
- Moving Off Campus OWL Poster
- Moving On Campus St Coordinator Recruitment Poster
- Off Campus Party Door Hanger
- Off Campus Student Services Bookmark



<http://www.housing.umass.edu/studentsuccess.html>

More Downloadable Resources

- Off Campus Party Brochure
- Off Campus Student Week 2013
- Parent and Student Mailing OCSS Insert
- Parent Housing Letter
- Student Housing Letter
- Student Life Coordinator Position
- Walk This Way Program Poster
- Winterfest Off Campus Prep



<http://www.housing.umass.edu/studentsuccess.html>

Supporting the Needs of Off Campus Students

- Now that we have discussed steps taken at UMass Amherst...
 - What are we missing?
 - How can you further support off campus students in your role?
 - What are areas of off campus living that have not been addressed?



A woman with short brown hair, wearing a black tank top and patterned pants, is sitting on a metal bench. She is looking down at a small device in her hands. The bench is outdoors, under the shade of a large, leafy tree. In the background, there are parked cars and a building.

Final Questions

- Any additional questions?
- Visit us online at:
 - www.umass.edu
 - www.umocss.org

References

Chickering, A.W. (1969). *Education and identity*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.


Evans, N. J., Forney, D. S., Guido, F. M., Patten, L. D., & Renn, K. A. (2010). *Student development in college: Theory, research and practice (2nd Ed.)*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

APPENDIX

Moving Off Campus OWL

After completing the training, students can:

- Print a certificate for landlords.
- Find a place to rent, locate housemates, and sign a lease.
- Know important Landlord-Tenant, Massachusetts General, and Town of Amherst Bylaws.
- Know about the University's expectations for behavior off campus and the consequences and costs for misconduct and arrests.
- Know where to get more information.
- Be ready to move in, set up utilities, and meet the neighbors!

A woman with short brown hair, wearing a black tank top and patterned pants, is sitting on a metal bench. She is looking down at a small object in her hands. The bench is outdoors, under the shade of a large, leafy tree. In the background, there are parked cars and a building.

Moving On Campus Students Off.... OWL Content Example

Heat

The costs for heat vary according to the source: electric, oil, natural gas, the maintenance of the facility, and level of use.

These are some items to note if you are going to pay for heat:
Do the windows and doors close tightly and lock?

Are there storm windows and storm doors?


Can you and your housemates agree on a comfortable temperature setting?

How recently was the oil burner inspected and cleaned?

How much do the current tenants pay for heat? Ask them!

On a Budget?

Contact the gas, oil, or electric company and ask if a level billing contract or a "budget" plan is available. If you heat with oil, you can join the [Pioneer Valley Oil Co-op](#) for \$10 and purchase heating oil at a discount.

A woman with short brown hair, wearing a black tank top and a patterned skirt, is sitting on a metal bench. She is looking down at a small object in her hands. The bench is outdoors on a grassy area. A large, leafy tree is to her left, casting a shadow over her. In the background, there are parked cars and a building.

Moving On Campus Students Off.... OWL Question Example

Which of the following will **NOT** affect the amount you pay for heat?

If heat is included in your rent.

The temperature setting on your thermostat.

If the oil burner was recently cleaned.

If you have a level billing contract.

A woman with short brown hair, wearing a black tank top and patterned pants, is sitting on a metal bench. She is looking down at a small device in her hands. The bench is outdoors, under the shade of a large, leafy tree. In the background, there are parked cars and a building.

Moving On Campus Students Off.... OWL Correct Answer

Score:

Congratulations, you are Correct.

Answer(s): (Your response(s) are shown.)

Which of the following will **NOT** affect the amount you pay for heat?

***If heat is included in your rent.**

The temperature setting on your thermostat.

If the oil burner was recently cleaned.

If you have a level billing contract.

Feedback:

Ways to save money:

If you heat with oil, you can join the [Pioneer Valley Oil Co-op](#) for \$10 and purchase oil at a discount.